New Hanover County School

School Mental Health Committee Meeting Record

March 11, 2013

**PRESENT**: Lisa Burriss, Susan Cole, Michelle Corwin, David Hand, Kristin Jackson, Karen Laughlin, Rebecca McSwain, Connie Parker, Suzanne Rilling and Bill Trant

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

* Michelle reported that Coastal Care (CC) is officially a Managed Care Organization (MCO) as of 3/1/13. This status will provide CC the responsibility to authorize services and manage Medicaid billing. There will some changes in the service authorization procedures. CC responsibility will include management of outpatient services, as well as enhanced services. CC has instituted a new residential placement review process that will occur semi-monthly. There are a limited number of residential “crisis beds” provided by NC Mentor, when children are unsafe at home. The mobile crisis program is not empowered to place students and involuntary commitment procedures may be needed. CC has fully relocated to the new offices on Shipyard.
* Kristin reported that Lake Forest Academy (LFA) has made a number of reauthorization requests to CC since the 3/1/13 start date. There are also some changes in the weighting and prioritization system for enhanced services such as day treatment and intensive in-home.
* Connie and David discussed the progress of the opening of the new WHAT clinic at Laney. A full time mental health therapist is a part of the clinic. David further indicated that Laney is looking for a grant to strength services for students by looking at some school-within-a-school structures to provide some stronger supports. An advisory structure is anticipated and the SMH committee members suggested looking into a partnership with a day treatment provider.
* Rebecca shared information about the “Connected School” (Perry Good) school-wide management system used by Alderman School. It contains elements of positive behavior support, clear expectations and restitution. She was not sure of any plans to expand this variation of a more widely used Positive Behavior and Intervention System (PBIS) approach.
* Karen reminded the committee of the upcoming Young Children Mental Health workshop on March 27 at SEAHEC in Wilmington.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

* Kristin discussed needing help with a Mental Health education grant that LFA is planning to apply for. The focus will be on high school students and their parents to help them better understand adolescent mental health. The application is due March 31. Lisa agreed to help out. The application will work off of the recently completed Youth Developmental Assets Survey.
* Kristin also mentioned that classroom management continues to be a concern in many schools. Colleges of Education graduates are not prepared well in this very important skill. The “Tools for Teaching” professional development continues to be needed, but the staff who need this don’t come. The expected Professional Development theme for 13-14 will likely be school safety and putting some of these opportunities in place will be important.
* Lisa initiated a discussion about the crisis intervention services and gaps that appear to be present among the crisis line, mobile crisis programs and involuntary commitment processes during evenings and weekends. This is particularly significant within the context of the NHCS suicide protocol. The committee also provided some input on the suicide protocol itself and some of the documents associated with the process.
* Due to the lengthy discussion of issues in the meeting, we were not able to review the web-based Action Plan located on the School Mental Health Committee Wiki at <http://school-mental-health-committee.wikispaces.com/>.
* The Treatment Gap #2 portion of the Action Plan is still not posted and Suzanne committed to getting it completed before the next meeting.
* Bill mentioned that several of the 7 schools not currently partnered with a mental health provider have asked about becoming involved. Bill will invite the remaining schools and issue and Request for Proposals (RFP). Kristin has some leads on strong providers to which an RFP should be sent.
* One new member joined us today and Susan is following up with Access Academy, LeCris, and Carolina Support to include these partners in the SMH Committee’s work.
* There was some discussion on the new In-School Suspension program. It was suggested that this be a topic for the next meeting.

**NEXT STEPS**

* Bill will move forward with inviting schools and issuing an RFP on school-based services for 13-14.
* Bill will post the Search Institute Youth Assets Profile on the Wiki.
* Bill and Lisa will ask Judy Stubblefield and Beau McCaffray to provide the SMH committee with information about new ISS.
* Kristin and Lisa will talk with Dave Spencer (School Safety Officer) on ways to include mental heath information into the “School Safety” professional development theme next year.
* Lisa will work with Kristin on the mental health education grant.
* Lisa, Bill and others will meet with providers and discuss the after-hours gap discussed today.
* Susan will recruit some new members from our existing mental health partners.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**June 17, 2013**

**9:00 – 11:00**

**Spencer 102**